AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–31
OFFERED BY MR. RESCHENTHALER OF
PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of title III of division C, add the following:

SEC. 20303. U–233 REPORT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in light of the statement of policy of the United States pursuant to section 1261 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232) regarding long-term strategic competition with China, and China’s pursuit of thorium molten-salt reactors, spent nuclear fuel reprocessing, and fast neutron reactor technology and associated cooperative research agreements with national laboratories of the United States, the Secretary of Energy should seek to promote the development of nuclear recycling, alternate fuel cycles using U–233, reactor-grade plutonium, and other “transuranic” elements, and molten-salt reactor technology by American industry.

(b) PAUSE OF DISPOSITION PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Energy may not carry out the U–233 Disposition
Program during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the Secretary submits the report under subsection (c).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) The costs of constructing or modifying a suitable category–1 facility for the secure, permanent storage of the U–233 inventory as well as a pathway for National Asset Material designation.

(2) A description of the scope for a facility that would enable secure access to the nuclear material for research and development of thorium fuel cycle reactors, for both defense and civilian applications, as well as medical isotope extraction and processing, including by developing such a facility through public-private partnerships.

(3) Whether the Secretary should transfer the ownership of U–233 from the Office of Environmental Management to the Office of Nuclear Energy.

(4) The ability of the Department of Energy to transfer the inventory of U–233 that the Secretary determines is most feasible for immediate or near
term transfer to the Y-12 National Security Complex for secure interim storage.

(5) The feasibility of the National Nuclear Security Administration providing for the secure storage of the inventory of U-233 within the Y-12 National Security Complex or another suitable location within the nuclear security enterprise (as defined in section 4002 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501).